

Yajnavalkya's theory of heliocentrism

Yajnavalkya's theory of heliocentrism is the heliocentric model of the Solar System mentioned in the Vedic text Shatapatha Brahmana. It was proposed by the Indian philosopher Yajnavalkya.^{[1][2]}

Background

Yajnavalkya proposed a heliocentric model of the Solar System between 9th-7th Century BCE stating that the Sun was "the center of the spheres". The theory proposed is also known as *Yajnavalkya Heliocentrism*.^{[3][4]}

According to his concept the Solar system, the Earth is spherical and the Sun is at the center of the spheres. It is mentioned in his work *Shatapatha Brahmana* as

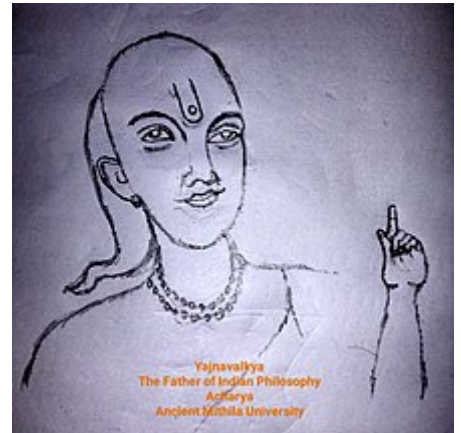
The sun strings these worlds – the earth, the planets, the atmosphere – to himself on a thread."

—Shatapatha Brahmana, Yajnavalkya

He recognised that the Sun is much larger than the Earth. He also invented the method of measuring the relative distances of the Moon and the sun from the Earth. He used mathematics and geometry in some religious rituals in the Vedic Tradition. According to some scholars that, he measured the relative distance of the Sun and the Moon from the Earth to an accuracy of 108 times the respective diameters of these celestial bodies, which was close to the modern measurements of 107.6 for the Sun and 110.6 for the Moon.^{[5][6]}

References

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Symbolic image of Yajnavalkya, the author of Shatapatha Brahmana

[dir=0&source=gb_mobile_search&sa=X&ved=2ahUKewj2wfzx_qaCAxWMZmwGHTGeBAwQ6AF6BAGMEAM#v=onepage&q=yajnavalkya%20heliocentrism&f=false](https://www.google.com/search?q=yajnavalkya%20heliocentrism&sa=X&ved=2ahUKewj2wfzx_qaCAxWMZmwGHTGeBAwQ6AF6BAGMEAM#v=onepage&q=yajnavalkya%20heliocentrism&f=false)). Xlibris Corporation. ISBN 978-1-4691-3368-3.

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